

REPORT OF THE ALTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This past year was a busy and productive one for the Alton Historical Society. We saw increased attendance at our program series, progress was made on the freight building renovation project, and we began improving our museum displays.

Program Series

Each year we offer a monthly series of programs running from April through October, which are free and open to the public. In 2006 the series consisted of the following presentations:

- ❖ The proposed J. Jones & Sons Freight Building project
- ❖ Transportation & Regional Specialization in America 1800-1860
- ❖ Surviving World War II (Joint meeting with friends of the Gilman Library)
- ❖ Barns and Stonewalls in New Hampshire
- ❖ Lake Winnepesaukee Shipwrecks
- ❖ NH Fire Towers
- ❖ The History of Post Offices in Alton

Freight Building Renovation

The Alton Historical Society has undertaken the task of renovating the "J. Jones & Son" freight building built in 1885. The plan is to transform this building, originally used to store freight arriving via the Boston & Maine Railroad, into a museum and conference room.

In 2006 we completed some of the initial planning stages of the project (property survey, septic design, tree removal, brochure development) with funding from a grant provided by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. In 2007 we will broaden our fund-raising efforts and hope to see major advancements with the project.

Museum Collection

In 2006 we set up a committee to look at ways to better display and organize the collection of artifacts currently housed in the Historical Society Museum (located in the lower level of the Gilman Library). These members have already made great strides as seen by those who attended our Open House during Alton's Light-Up Night in December.

I would like to thank all of the members who have volunteered their time to help make this past year a success. The society would also like to express our appreciation to the Gilman Library Trustees and staff for continuing to be so supportive of our efforts.

In closing, I would like to extend an invitation to everyone reading this report to join us in our efforts to preserve and promote Alton's history. If you are interested in becoming a member, helping to support us financially, volunteering some of your time, or just getting our 2007 program schedule; then please contact us at – PO Box 536, Alton, NH 03809.

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip Laurion, President